

For Immediate Release

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**Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley Announces Local Lawyer
Sentenced For His Role in Prison Escape**

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley announced today, February 16, 2012, that Rochester attorney, Rudy Lepore, was sentenced to five years probation and 200 hours community service after pleading guilty to the charge of Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree, a class-D felony.

Mr. Lepore admitted that between March 20 and March 31, 2011, he brought a cellular phone and cellular phone charger, considered dangerous contraband and illegal for inmates to possess, into the Monroe County Jail and gave these items to his client, inmate James Thomas. The phone and charger were hidden in Mr. Lepore's briefcase.

Thomas, who was also charged in this indictment, pled guilty to Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree and was sentenced February 9, 2012 to three to six years in prison. The cell phone Thomas received from Lepore was used in the March 31, 2011 prison escape of inmates Joseph Mitchell and Eddie Palmer. Mitchell is awaiting trial on charges of Escape in the First Degree, Promoting Prison Contraband and Criminal Mischief. Palmer pled guilty to the count of Escape in the First Degree and was sentenced to three and one-half to seven years in prison.

Inquiries may be directed to Matthew Schwartz, Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau, at (585) 753-4808 or mschwartz@monroecounty.gov.